

We claim:

1. The use of crosslinked cationic polymers preparable by
5 polymerization of
 - a) 1 to 99.9% by weight, based on the total amount of
monomers used for the preparation of the polymer, of at
least one cationic or cationogenic vinyl group-containing
10 monomer chosen from the group consisting of
N-vinylimidazoles, diallylamines,
dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamides and
dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamides and dialkylaminoalkyl
(meth)acrylates,
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 - b) 0 to 99% by weight, based on the total amount of monomers
used for the preparation of the polymer, of at least one
neutral or basic water-soluble monomer different from
(a),
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 - c) 0 to 50% by weight, based on the total amount of monomers
used for the preparation of the polymer, of at least one
unsaturated acid or one unsaturated anhydride,
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 - d) 0 to 50% by weight of at least one free-radically
copolymerizable monomer different from (a), (b) or (c);
and
 - e) 0.05 to 10% by weight, based on the total amount of
30 monomers used for the preparation of the polymer, of at
least one crosslinking monomer with at least two
ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds,

where the amounts a) to e) are chosen such that the resulting
35 polymer, optionally after quaternization or protonation, has
an overall positive charge,

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in water in the presence of

f) 1 to 100% by weight of the saturation amount in the reaction medium of one or more organic or inorganic salts, and

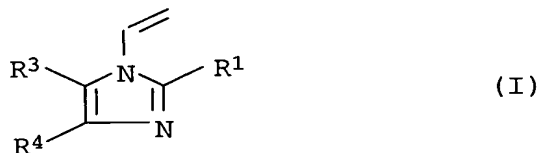
g) 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the dispersion, of at least one water-soluble protective colloid with a composition different from a) to e), and

subsequent at least partial quaternization for cases where the monomer (a) is not quaternized,

in cosmetics.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1 in hair cosmetics.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radically polymerizable vinyl group-containing cationic monomer used is at least one N-vinylimidazole derivative of the formula (I),



in which the radicals R^1 to R^3 , independently of one another, are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or phenyl.

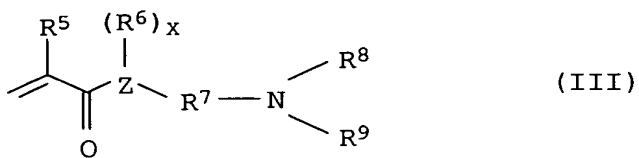
4. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radically polymerizable vinyl group-containing cationic monomer used is at least one diallylamine derivative of the formula (II),



in which the radical R^4 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl.

5. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radically polymerizable vinyl group-containing cationic monomer used is at least one dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)acrylamide and dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylate of the formula (III),

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10 in which R^5 and R^6 , independently of one another, are hydrogen or methyl, Z is a nitrogen atom where $x=1$ or an oxygen atom where $x=0$, R^7 is a linear or branched C_1 - C_{24} -alkylene radical, and R^8 and R^9 , independently of one another, are a C_1 - C_{24} -alkylene radical.

15 6. The use as claimed in claim 1, where the monomer (b) used is at least one N-vinyllactam.

20 7. The use as claimed in claim 1 as conditioning agent or thickener.

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